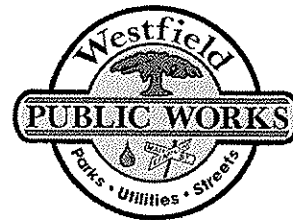


WESTFIELD PUBLIC WORKS



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October 23, 2007

Regarding: *Notices of Public Hearing of the Town Council of the Town of Westfield, Indiana*
Subject: *Consider the Establishment of a Town's Stormwater Utility Fee*

Dear Westfield Property Owner:

Please allow this letter to serve as notice of public hearing to be conducted by the Town Council of the Town of Westfield, Indiana on November 12, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Westfield Town Hall, located at 130 N. Penn Street, Westfield, IN 46074. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the establishment of a Town's Stormwater Utility Fee. The notice attached to this letter depicts the amended fee as proposed.

These charges apply to owners of improved properties located inside the Town of Westfield Public Works Service Area jurisdiction.

At the time of the hearing, or any time prior to the hearing, as an individual identified above, you may file a written statement with the Town Council. At such hearing, which may be adjourned from time to time, the Town Council will hear all persons interested in the proceedings and all statements that have been filed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our offices at 317-896-5452.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Hauk
Acting Town Manager/Public Works Director
Town of Westfield

Enclosure

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town Council of the Town of Westfield, Indiana will conduct a public hearing on November 12, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Westfield Town Hall, 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana to the establishment of a Stormwater Utility Fee as follows:

For all areas served by Westfield's Stormwater Utility:

1. RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES:

Monthly fees for Residential Properties located within the Public Works Service area that receive water service or sanitary sewer service only, are hereby established at a rate of Two Dollars and Seventy-five cents (\$2.75) per month for a 3/4 inch water meter opening or smaller and Four Dollars (\$4.00) per month for any water meter opening larger than 3/4 inch. Any Residential Properties located within the Public Works Service area that does not receive water or sanitary sewer services, will be charged monthly minimum rate of Two Dollars and Seventy-five cents (\$2.75), and will be billed bi-annually Sixteen Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$16.50). The bi-annual monthly billings will occur on June 1 and December 1 of the calendar year.

2. NON- RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES:

Monthly fees for Non-Residential Properties located within the Public Works Service area that receive water service or sanitary sewer service only, are hereby established at the rate of Five Dollars (\$5.00) per month for a 3/4 inch water meter opening or smaller and Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) per month for any water meter opening larger than 3/4 inch with the exception of multi-unit residential users. Any Non-Residential Properties located within the Public Works Service area that does not receive water or sanitary sewer services, will be charged at a monthly minimum rate of Five Dollars (\$5.00), and will be billed bi-annually Thirty Dollars (\$30.00). The bi-annual monthly billings will occur on June 1 and December 1 of the calendar year.

3. MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES:

Monthly fees for Multi-Unit Residential Properties located within the Public Works Service area that receive water service or sanitary sewer service only, are hereby established at a rate of Two Dollars and Seventy-five cents (\$2.75) per month for a 3/4 inch water meter opening or smaller and Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) per month for any water meter opening larger than 3/4 inch. Any Multi-Unit Residential Properties located within the Public Works Service area that does not receive water or sanitary sewer services, will be charged at a monthly minimum rate of Two Dollars and Seventy-five cents (\$2.75), and will be billed bi-annually Sixteen Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$16.50). The bi-annual monthly billings will occur on June 1 and December 1 of the calendar year.

At the time fixed for the hearing or at any time prior to the hearing, any person affected by the proposed amendment may file a written statement with the Town Council. At such hearing, which may be adjourned from time to time, the Town Council will hear all persons interested in the proceedings and all statements that have been filed.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Proposed Utility Rates:

How did the Town determine rate?

The rate is based on the past historical costs and projected costs to operate, maintain, and improve existing storm water infrastructure. Additionally, components such as developing a Stormwater Master Plan, investigating storm water complaints, and continued Public Education and Outreach.

When does the storm water fee go into effect?

The City of Westfield will begin collection of the stormwater fee on January 1, 2007. All rate payers of developed property within the City Limits are billed for these fees. Properties outside of the City's corporate limits will not be subject to the fee.

Who is billed for storm water?

All residents and non-residents that have developed properties located in the City's Municipal jurisdiction.

How is the residential storm water fee determined?

The fee structure reflects the amount of runoff each property contributes to the community's storm water runoff problem.

Will these charges be included on the water/sewer bills, or a separate page inserted?

The storm water charges will be included on the water/sewer bills, not on a separate bill.

Is the charge assessed to vacant homes?

Yes, any property occupied or not, will receive a bill.

Are builders charged for new construction?

Builders are not charged until the property goes into our billing system or we get a Certificate of Occupancy for homes that do not receive water/sewer services.

Do commercial, industrial and retail properties pay a storm water fee?

Yes. The storm water fee is for commercial, industrial and retail properties.

Do I have to pay the stormwater fee if I have my own well and septic system?

Yes. The stormwater fee relates to the stormwater drainage system, which is completely separate from the water and sanitary sewer system. Water from every property generates stormwater runoff, thereby contributing to the community's drainage problems.

Do I pay a stormwater fee if I live in an apartment, townhome, condo?

Yes. Stormwater bills are sent to the rate payer of each unit if metered separately. If the complex is master metered the owner of the complex will be billed.

Is the City fee influenced by the amount of rain that falls?

While the stormwater program is in place to manage the pollution and runoff carried by rainwater, the fee is in no way related to the amount of rain that falls. The fee is in place to fund the ongoing maintenance and capital improvements to the entire storm drainage infrastructure, as well as other water quality improvement and flood hazard mitigation programs.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Proposed Utility Rates (Continued):

Why is there a stormwater fee instead of a tax?

A property's value does not affect runoff, so property taxes are not the most equitable way to pay for stormwater services. For example, a high-rise building and a shopping mall may have similar value and pay similar property taxes. However, the shopping center produces more runoff because of the amount of parking and rooftops. The fee system ensures the shopping center pays a higher stormwater fee than the high rise.

Hasn't the City always had storm drains?

The City has had storm drains for a long time. However, recent federal regulations require a comprehensive stormwater quality management program and that the City take a more active role in managing stormwater. The utility fee enables the City to meet its responsibilities to manage the storm drainage system more closely, study the contents of stormwater, seek out and eliminate illicit connections and illegal discharges, enforce codes more strictly, and facilitate public awareness.

I rent the house that I live in, so why am I being charged?

Responsibility for utility services is assigned by the City to either the person whose name is on the water or sanitary sewer billing list or the property address assigned by the tax assessor.

What happens if I don't pay my bill?

You risk having all of your City services stopped, including water if you are a water customer. In addition, the City could file civil charges to collect. Any partial payment of your water sanitary sewer or stormwater payment could result in having all of your City services stopped.

I have a gravel driveway and no gutter drains that go to the street. Why do I have to pay for everyone else?

Gravel is an impervious surface. Like concrete or asphalt, it functions as a barrier to absorption and places a demand on the storm drainage infrastructure. This demand on the system is what the stormwater fee pays for. Anyone who drives a car on any city-maintained street contributes to stormwater runoff problems that result in pollution from cars, such as brake dust, gasoline and oil leaks, and the stormwater runoff from the impervious area of the street.

Why are churches and other tax-exempt properties required to pay?

All properties within the City Limits, including Federal, State and City owned properties that have impervious surface must pay regardless of ownership or tax status.